

A

CONVERSATION,

HELD ON THE PAST EVENING (THURSDAY)

Between John, Thomas, and Betty,

On a Visit from John to Thomas.

John. SO Thomas, how is it we? how do
do, Betty?

Thomas. John, how do do? I'm glad to see
he: where have he bin so long? you hant
call'd this age amost.

Betty. Why I thought you had forsaken
us, Jan.

John. Why to tell he the Truth, Thomas
and Betty, tho' I am but a single fellow, as
a body may say, yet I've found it to be as
much as my hands could do to keep my
mouth agoing, as the saying is, so that I
have no time to strole much; but seeing a
parcel of papers handed about last night,
and all of them about the Bill of Rights and
Meeting to-morrow at twelve o'clock at the
Guildhall, I thought you could tell me som-
mat about it, what they do mean by rights.

Betty. Ah John, you cou'dant have askd
a better than our Thomas, for he reads a
Newspaper pretinear every week, he'll tell
I warnd he.

Thomas. As to rights, John, they are
either natural or acquired. We may loose
the enjoyment of Natural Rights, but never
can lose the right to their enjoyment: that
is to say, John, if you understand me, a
worm, if trod on, possesses a natural right
of turning; but it is possible to hinder him
from doing it by keeping him down tight:—
Or my little girl there, in Betty's lap, tho'
but five months old, possesses a natural right,
if a pin pricks her, or she is otherwise hurt,
to cry out; but she might be deprived of
the exercise of that right, by *stopping her*
mourn! tho' this, you know, would be
cruel, John.

Betty. Come, hither, kifs thy mammy,
my dear Nance; nobody shall serve thee so,
that they shant.

John. Cruel, indeed: such a wretch
wod sure be dispised by every body.

Thomas. Now the meeting to-morrow,
John, as I understand it, is for this. We
certainly possess a natural right equal to
worms or infants: and, therefore, if treated
very ill, and our bread and labor taken from
us; or if we be taken from our wives and
children, and pressed for sailors or soldiers;
or if people come into our houses, and by

force turn us out, and lie with our wives and
daughters; we certainly possess a natural
right of modestly and humbly complaining
and petitioning Government to chang such
things a little for the better. — Thus the
Bill of Rights may be more properly termed
a Declaration than a Grant of Rights. —
But, contrary to this Bill of Rights, which
secures the blessing of complaining and pe-
titioning to Englishmen. We heare there
is two laws going to be made by Mr. Pitt and
his sort, for transporting or hanging every
man, that shall deare to find fault with any
law they make, even if that law was to burn
his wife and children before his face, for he
says their shall be no Grumbling throughout
the Kings Dominions.

Betty. La, Thomas, you do frighten me:
Im sure the King wodent let us be servd so,
if he knowd it; for Iv heard hes a good
man, and a good Husband to.

John. What, Thomas, do Pitt want to do
this for?

Thomas. Because, John he do know their
is room enough for us to find fault with *him*,
tho' we do love the King, for he, and those
about him, brought on the War; to enrich
theirselves and impovrish us; and all the
while told the King it was for his and his
people's good! so Thousands and Thousands
have been killd, and the rest most starvd.

John. Thank he Thomas: May any
body go to the Hall tomorrow?

Thomas. Yes, John, any body that will
b. have quit and orderly, for no body must
act like mad men and fools there except the
Gentlefolk. I design to go; but Ill be very
quiet; or else Pitt's folks will say directly
we ought to have our liberties took away
for coming there to breed a riot.

John. I'll call at your House at half past
Eleven, and go we; for I woudnt for the
World be hindered from crying out when
I'm pinchd hard.

Betty. That's right, John: Thats right
Thomas: both go, and behave yourselves
quiet when you be there; and I hope you
will stop there Bulls or what de call em be-
fore we be entirely ruind, for tis bad enough
aready of any contience.